



West Dean Church of England Primary School  
 West Dean, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0RJ  
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*We do our best in all we do, with God's love.*  
*'Love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another.'* **John 13**

**Newsletter 25 22.03.24 95.2% whole school attendance rate this week.**

**Don't forget Rev Sarah's 'Rectors Ramble' which can be found at: <http://thevalleyparish.org/from-the-vicar>**



Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems only yesterday that I was wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas, and here we are at the end of the spring term, preparing for the Easter weekend.

Much as the time has flown by, such a lot has happened this term. During worship this morning, I was looking back at our Instagram feed, which gives just a snapshot of the brilliant learning and events that have taken place; creative activities, trips out, visitors into school, sporting events, Chestnut Class at the O2 to name just a few things. As always, we are immensely grateful for the hard work and dedication of our brilliant staff team for making this all happen, and to you, our school families for your support.

During worship this week, we have been thinking about the events of Holy Week, following what Rev Sarah called a 'Whistlestop description' of this when we were in church last Friday. Many people will be familiar with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (today), Good Friday and of course Easter Day, but less is known or considered about Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday. This is when the Bible tells us of Jesus' anger at those who were dealing in money in the temple, but it is another story about the temple, that of 'The Widow's Offering' that we discussed in a bit more detail, and for good reason.

This story in Mark 12 describes how Jesus and his disciples watch a series of increasingly wealthy people place an offering of money through a hole in the temple wall, as was the custom. Last of all, a widow with very little money placed just two coins as her offering. Jesus explained to his disciples that although her offering was small in monetary value, it was all she had and therefore proportionally huge, compared to the offering of the wealthy.

The reason I told this story was that a few days ago something incredible and remarkably similar happened in school. Inspired by an assembly about Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice, without being asked, one of our Year Four children brought in the contents of her piggy bank—just over £4 of her own money and donated it to Chestnut Tree House. Not a huge amount of money, but the world to that kind girl, and she gave it happily and freely. I find it really heartening when our children are actively living out the Christian values of our school in their everyday actions.

When I told this story and made this comparison to the children during worship, I did stress to them that I was not asking them to all go home and empty their money boxes! It was more to draw attention to how one child thought about the need in the world and decided that she could make a small but important difference herself, which I think is wonderful.

**You should have received an email this afternoon with a link to download your child's annual written report.** This will have been sent to the email addresses registered on our school information system—do check your junk just in case. Please take some time over the holidays to read the report, ideally with your child. After the Easter holiday we will provide details of how to book a follow-up parent/teacher meeting appointment.

Have a happy and healthy Easter, and let's hope the sun comes out and stays out at some point soon!  
 With best wishes, Chris Williams

### Chestnut Tree House Little Hoot Fundraising

Following our assembly last week you will have received information about our project and an 'Owlet' template. Please could we have all of your owl designs returned to school during the first week back after the holiday.

Thank you to children who have made a 'pocket money' donation.

Please click here to access our [Justgiving Fundraising Page](#)





## SAVE THE DATE!

After a dreadfully mucky winter, there are a lot of jobs to do around school and in our grounds to clear up and prepare for summer. Some are gardening jobs, others may require a few DIY skills.

We will be having a 'Grounds and Jobs' morning on Saturday 20th April—the weekend after we return from the Easter break.

We know your weekends are precious, but we would so appreciate you giving just a few hours to help ensure that our schools looks and feels lovely! More details and timings to follow soon.



**Come and Join our PTA, you are all parents and everyone is welcome.**

We propose to hold an informal coffee and chat morning on Wednesday 24th April at 8.40 in the pavilion. This will be an opportunity to meet Mr Williams and Mr Younghusband (our friendly Chair of Governors) and find out how you can help build our already established team of PTA support for the children in our school.

There will be lots of opportunities for involvement, so whatever your level of expertise there will be a role for you.

Please do take the time to come along, have a coffee and a chat and find out how you can help.



Look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible, let's build on our PTA future together.

## Foodbank Friday 19th April

Our next Foodbank Friday is 19th April and we would like to invite you to make a donation.



This is an opportunity for us all to support Chichester Food Bank, a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards stopping hunger in our local area. Sadly, the need for this service continues to grow, with an increasing number of families in the Chichester area requiring support from the Food Bank. Please check their website for items that are desperately needed:

<https://chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

Your help is always greatly appreciated.

## Star Table

Well done to our star table for this half term. These children have shown exemplary behaviour and manners during lunchtimes and deservedly enjoyed some 'star treatment' during lunchtime today.



## Corporate Challenge

What a thrilling evening at the final Chichester Corporate Challenge event of the year; superb support for our West Deanies, great running from Humphrey and Benny and a third consecutive top three placing in the Y5 girls for Imogen! What a team—well done everyone!



**Would you and your children like to have a say in the future of the Weald & Downland Living Museum?**

The Weald & Downland Museum are embarking upon an exciting site wide Reinterpretation Project and would like to invite local families to join a Family Focus Group which will directly inform what we do. We are hoping to find 6 different types of families who can represent a cross section of our family visitors. You would need to commit to 3 sessions over the year, the first being held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am-12.00noon. In return for your time and attending all 3 Focus Group sessions, each family will be given a free Family Membership for the rest of the season after attending the first session as a thank you for your help.

Please contact [Hilarycunningham@wealddown.co.uk](mailto:Hilarycunningham@wealddown.co.uk) or ring her on 01243 811034 for further information or to join the Family Focus Group.



# Beech Class Ancient Egyptian Day



We will let the pictures do most of the talking, but Beech Class definitely had an amazing day of Egyptian themed adventure today with tomb discovery, dancing, feasting and art. Thank you Mrs Anstee, Miss Scott and Miss Evans for masterminding a brilliant day for our children and to the Beech Class parents for supporting your children with some incredible costumes—They certainly looked the part!

## Maple Class 'Save Our Planet' Open Afternoon



The children in Maple Class showcased a lot of hard work related to their topic 'Save our Planet' to their families on Wednesday afternoon. They have been busy campaigning about environmental issues, writing and presenting news programmes and even writing letters to Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak. Whilst they had the attention of their parents and families, the children asked for donations and, incredibly, raised in excess of £70, which they have used to sponsor a tiger and a sea turtle and support the work to protect them. Fantastic work Maples!



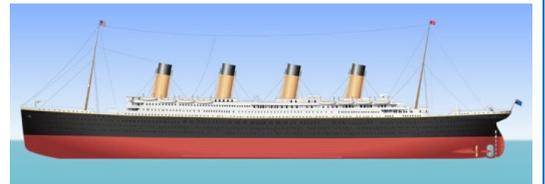
### Amazing Algebra with Mr P!

Mr Pearmaine, our very own Mrs P's husband and secondary school teacher of maths, kindly visited Chestnut Class this week to get the children all fired up about algebra.

Algebra is one area of maths that always seems to get people worried and convinced that they just can't do it. Mr P's fun and interactive approach with the children was fantastically engaging and managed to change their minds completely. We've certainly never heard such a buzz of chatter about maths at play time before.

Thank you so much Mr Pearmaine, we're glad you were so impressed by our mathematicians.

### Titanic Talent!



Thank you to all of the Chestnut Class parents for supporting your children by stopping by to review their project work on the Titanic on Wednesday. There was some fantastic writing on show and the children really do love the opportunity to share this with you. Thank you.





West Dean CE Primary School  
Acorn Awards  
Thursday 28th March 2024



- Yr R** *Dora* - for being enthusiastic about your learning of doubles to 10. Well done!
- Yr 1** *Ivy S* - for your fantastic reading at home and school. It really makes a difference!
- Yr 2** *Holly* - for being a super carpenter building a brilliant wooden frame for your Lacandon Rainforest Waterfall artwork. Well done!
- Yr 3** *Indigo* - for your kindness and the support you give to others.
- Yr 4** *Bronte* - for being confident to use your own ideas to work out maths problems.
- Yr 5** *Bea* - for showing resilience and a sense of humour! You are a super role model and the pride in your work is awesome!
- Yr 6** *Mason* - for being such a caring and thoughtful member of our school, you are such a support in and out of the classroom to so many children.



# Diary Dates 2024



## 2023/24 INSET Days

Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd July 2024



### Summer Term 2024 - Monday 15th April - Friday 19th July 2024

Wednesday 17th April	'Hawking About' - Owl visit to school
Thursday 18th April	1.30-2.30, Worship Music Festival, Chichester Cathedral (3/4/5)
Friday 19th April	Foodbank Friday
Saturday 20th April	Grounds Day—All welcome, please come and help!
Tuesday 23rd April	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Tuesday 23rd April	Dance House, Worthing (Dance Club Children)
Wednesday 24th April	8.40, PTA Coffee and Chat in the pavilion
Thursday 25th April	Cricket Taster Day
Thursday 25th May	5.30, FGB Policy Meeting
Saturday 27th April	Chichester Cormorants Swim Gala at Westgate
Tuesday 30th April	Drama for All Workshops in School, Apple, Maple and Beech
Tuesday 30th April	3.15—5.00, Parent Consultation Evening
Wednesday 1st May	1.00-2.00, Chichester Falcons Softball (Chestnut)
Wednesday 1st May	3.15—6.00, Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 2nd May	Poling Day (School open as usual)
Wednesday 8th May	1.30-3.30 Year 3/4 SSP Tennis (details to follow)
Wednesday 15th May	Beech Class visit to Del-Quay
W/C 20.05.24	Chestnut Class Residential Visit to France (Tues/Wed/Th/Fri)
Wednesday 21st May	12.45—3.45, SSP Tri-Golf Year 3/4 (details to follow)
Tuesday 4th June	Hugo Van Driel Assembly
Wednesday 5th June	1.30-3.30 SSP Quad Kids Yr 5/6 (details to follow)
Thursday 6th June	D-Day 80th Commemoration
Friday 7th June	Foodbank Friday
Monday 10th June	Yellow School Photographs, Classes and Year 6 Leavers
Wednesday 12th June	Sports Morning
Monday 24th June	1.15, Year 6 Leavers' Service, Chichester Cathedral
Thursday 27th June	GAS Sports at Boxgrove (Details to follow)
Thursday 27th June	5.30, Full Governing Body Meeting
Tuesday 9th July	Hugo Van Driel Assembly